

The policy of limiting the profits of shareholders was adopted by the law of 1900, in conformity with the policy adopted at about the same time by France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria-Hungary. The shareholders first receive dividends of six per cent. Of the excess, ten per cent, is added to the reserve funds, and the remainder is divided equally between the state and the shareholders; but after the portion of the shareholders has reached ten per cent., three-quarters goes to the state. ^x

The note circulation of the bank has expanded with the expansion of Norwegian trade, but the increase in discounts and deposits has been shared to some extent with other institutions. The extent to which the permission to keep the reserve abroad has been availed of is indicated by the fact that on December 31, 1905, the total reserve was 37,779,045 crowns and of this amount 13,442,432 crowns was on deposit with foreign banks. By the close of 1907 the amount on deposit abroad, including 3,531,035 crowns in the Banks of Sweden and Denmark, was 21,083,922 crowns. The following figures indicate the variations in some of the principal items of the accounts in recent years *:

Accounts of the Bank of Norway.
MODEJRN" BANKS OF ISSUE.

DEC. 3XSt.	NOTES IN CIRCULATION.	METALLIC RESERVE.	DISCOUNT.	X>KPO*!T8.
		(In	<< >>	
		28,675,61	33»275.493	6,653.796
1885	37,147,456	0	25,979,248	6,879,364
1890	49,670,702	38,895,52	30.^93.354	9.345.183
1895	50,970,375	3	48,007,067	6,120,663
1900	65,611,696	36,759,46	48,374,428	8,659,755
1902	62,915,738	5	36,173,332	10,061,198
1904	60,171,033	36,502,20	40»787,656	9.<>8<>,9i
1905	65,664,540	1	4*»439,43	9
1906	68,955,018	33,523,81	3	
1907	73,453,136	2	45.438,19	10,422,715
		36,886,87	^	0.422.715

* *Bulletin de Statistique* > October, 1901, L., 437.

² *Statistisk. Aarbog for Kongeriget Norge* % 1906, 83, and prior years; for 1906 and 1907, *økonomiſte Mnropien* ^ April io» 1908, XXXIII., 476.